

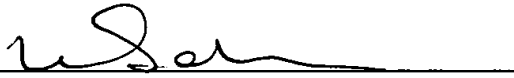
Appl. No. 09/889,086
Amdt. Dated January 13, 2004
Reply to Office action of October 3, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and/or 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by and/or unpatentable over a machine translation of Yoshida et al. (JP Patent 11-312285). However, the relied upon machine translation of Yoshida et al. was not furnished with the Office action. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Office action dated December 8, 2003 was incomplete for failure to provide copies of the cited references. In accordance with MPEP Section 710.06, the Examiner in charge of the subject application was contacted on January 2, 2004, within one-month of the mail date of the action, to notify the USPTO of the error and request a copy of the cited reference. However, to date, the cited reference has not been received. Accordingly, Applicants request that a copy of the relied upon machine translation of Yoshida et al. and a new response period be provided. Because the error was brought to the attention of the Office within one-month of the mail date of the action, the response period should be reset to run from the date the error is corrected.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned should any outstanding issues remain.

Respectfully submitted,
PEARNE & GORDON LLP


Una L. Schumacher, Reg. No. 48,998

1801 East 9th Street
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700
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